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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/45/849/Add.3)]

45/202. Specific measures in favour of island developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the requests for specific action in favour of island developing countries contained in its resolutions 41/163 of 5 December 1986 and 43/189 of 20 December 1988, and in resolutions 98 (IV) of 31 May 1976, 1/ 111 (V) of 3 June 1979 2/ and 138 (VI) of 2 July 1983 3/ of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and recalling decision 86/33 of 27 June 1986 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on the special needs of island developing countries, 4/

Recognizing that, in addition to the general problems of development, many island developing countries experience specific problems arising from the interplay

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1/ See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Fourth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.II.D.10 and corrigendum), part one, sect. A.

2/ Ibid., Fifth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.II.D.14), part one, sect. A.

3/ Ibid., Sixth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.II.D.6), part one, sect. A.

4/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1986, Supplement No. 9 and corrigendum (E/1986/29 and Corr.1), annex I.

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of such factors as their smallness, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, the fragility of their ecosystems, constraints on transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining fresh water supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of personnel with high-level skills, shortages of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens,

Recognizing also that many of these factors occur concurrently in many island developing countries, resulting in socio-economic vulnerability and dependence, particularly in those countries which are small and/or geographically dispersed,

Noting that many island developing countries are also least developed countries and, in that context, taking note of the relevant provisions contained in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris from 3 to 14 September 1990, 5/

Recognizing that many of the problems facing island developing countries require a strengthened partnership between the countries concerned and other members of the international community,

Concerned about the adverse effects on island developing countries of sea-level rise resulting from climate change,

Taking note of the report of the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Island Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Organizations, held in New York from 25 to 29 June 1990, 6/

1. Reaffirms its resolution 43/189 and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and calls for their immediate and effective implementation;

2. Expresses its appreciation to States and to organizations and bodies within and outside the United Nations system that have responded to the special needs of island developing countries;

3. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for convening the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Island Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Organizations, as called for in paragraph 11 of resolution 43/189;

5/ See A/CONF.147/Misc.9.

6/ A/CONF.147/5-TD/B/AC.46/4.

4. Takes note of the text entitled "Challenges and opportunities: A strategic framework", which was adopted unanimously by the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Island Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Organizations; 7/

5. Welcomes the efforts made by island developing countries to adopt policies that address their specific problems, including efforts to promote regional co-operation and integration, and calls upon those countries to pursue additional measures, in accordance with their national objectives, policies and priorities, to make their economies less vulnerable to the adverse consequences of their specific situations;

6. Calls upon the island developing countries to continue to adopt suitable development policies designed to overcome their specific vulnerabilities, in particular through the promotion of an integrated approach to their development process in such areas as development of human resources, expansion of physical and institutional infrastructure, exploitation of resources and diversification of the production base;

7. Also calls upon island developing countries to adopt measures aimed at protecting and rehabilitating their fragile environment and ecosystems;

8. Urges the island developing countries to promote regional co-operation arrangements in such areas as disaster prevention, inter-island transport feeder services and security;

9. Appeals to the international community:

(a) To maintain and, if possible, increase the level of concessional financial and technical assistance provided to island developing countries;

(b) To maximize access of island developing countries to concessional financial and technical assistance by taking into account the specific development needs and problems facing those countries;

(c) To consider reviewing the mechanisms of existing procedures used in providing concessional resources to island developing countries, taking into account their situations and development potential;

(d) To ensure that assistance conforms to the national and, as appropriate, regional priorities of island developing countries;

(e) To provide support to island developing countries over a mutually agreed and, where appropriate, longer time-frame to enable them to achieve economic growth and development;

7/ Ibid., chap. II.

(f) To continue to ensure that a concerted effort is made to assist the island developing countries, at their request, in improving their institutional and administrative capacities and in satisfying their overall needs with regard to the development of human resources;

(g) To consider improving existing arrangements for assisting island developing countries in addressing the adverse effects on their export earnings;

10. Recommends that the relevant organizations of the United Nations system take adequate measures to respond positively to the particular needs of island developing countries and report on such measures, as appropriate;

11. Urges the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to strengthen its role as the focal point for specific action at the global level in favour of island developing countries and to act as a catalyst in this regard, inter alia, by organizing and facilitating the cross-regional interchange of information and experience in full co-operation with regional and subregional organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, as appropriate;

12. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to carry out activities to identify specific problems and recommend specific measures for island developing countries, taking into account the work already done on this issue within the inter-agency framework called for in paragraph 10 of resolution 43/189, in particular in areas such as the applicability of current socio-economic indicators to island developing countries, transport and the impact of natural disasters;

13. Also requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to provide, from existing or from extrabudgetary resources, technical advisory services to the island developing countries to assist them in the following areas:

(a) Periodic review of their socio-economic performance;

(b) Assessment and exploitation of marine potential;

(c) Development of inter-island transport services;

(d) Development of the statistical socio-economic data base to improve planning capacities;

14. Further requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to consider the convening of periodic meetings of governmental experts and donor countries and organizations in order to facilitate a review of developments in respect of island developing countries;

15. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to monitor, in co-operation with the appropriate international

organizations, especially the relevant regional institutions, the progress made in the implementation of measures taken at the national and international levels;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

71st plenary meeting
21 December 1990